

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present request is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated November 3, 2005, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by February 3, 2006, and with the initial two-month period for response expiring January 3, 2006.

Claims 38-47 are pending in the application.

In the final Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,261,162 to Juncker. Claims 1, 34-37, and 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,788,038 to Corcoran.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 38-42.

In the present amendment, rejected claims 1 and 34-37 have been canceled. However, the Applicants respectfully disagree that claims 43-47 are anticipated by the cited patent to Corcoran.

Claim 43 of the present application is directed to a cutting blade with cutting edges and a double trapezoid shape, whose outer trapezoid is shorter than the inner trapezoid. In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to Fig. 3 of Corcoran, and argues that the tip 22 and the inner region of the cutting blade 16 form a double trapezoid shape in connection with the element 24, and that the outer cutting edges are shorter than the inner cutting edges.

The Applicants respectfully disagree. Fig. 1 of Corcoran shows a smooth sheet blank, from which a cutting blade with cutting edges 16 of Fig. 3 is made by bending. Bending lines 20, 24 are provided. Fig. 2 shows that the cutting edges 16

project upwardly on the bending line 20 and the tips 22 are bent on the bending line 24 somewhat horizontally.

The bending line 20 runs diagonally to the radial direction, whereby the cutting edge 16, in the bent-up state, provides a positive blade angle for producing a propeller effect (column 2, lines 20-23).

Fig. 3 therefore shows in perspective view the slanted, diagonal bending up of the cutting edge 16 at the diagonal bending line 20. The positive positioning of the cutting edge 16 as shown in Fig. 3 gives the impression that in the region of the radial outer bending line 24, a double trapezoid shape exists.

However, this impression is incorrect. The sheet blank of the cutting blade shown in Fig. 1 contemplates that only a single trapezoid shape is formed for the outer end 22 of the cutting edges 16. This is disclosed also in column 2, lines 14-16 of the description. This single trapezoid shape also does not change when the cutting edges 16 of the sheet blank of Fig. 1 are bent. In the bent state of Figs. 2 and 3, the single trapezoid shape of the blank of Fig. 1 is maintained.

Corcoran therefore fails to disclose a double trapezoid shape, whose outer cutting edges are shorter than the inner cutting edges, as defined in claim 43. The subject matter of claim 43 therefore cannot be anticipated by the Corcoran reference.

The claimed double trapezoid shape with radially outer, shorter edges also is not disclosed in any of the other cited references. Therefore, even if the references are combined, the present invention as defined in claim 43 would not be the result.

In view of the foregoing discussion, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 38-47 are patentable over the cited art of record. In addition, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call from him to discuss any outstanding issues, and in particular any further amendments to the claims to bring the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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